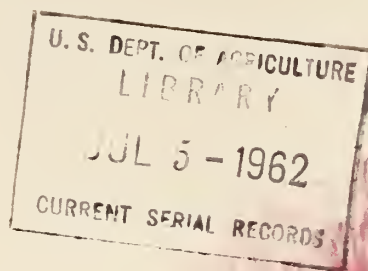


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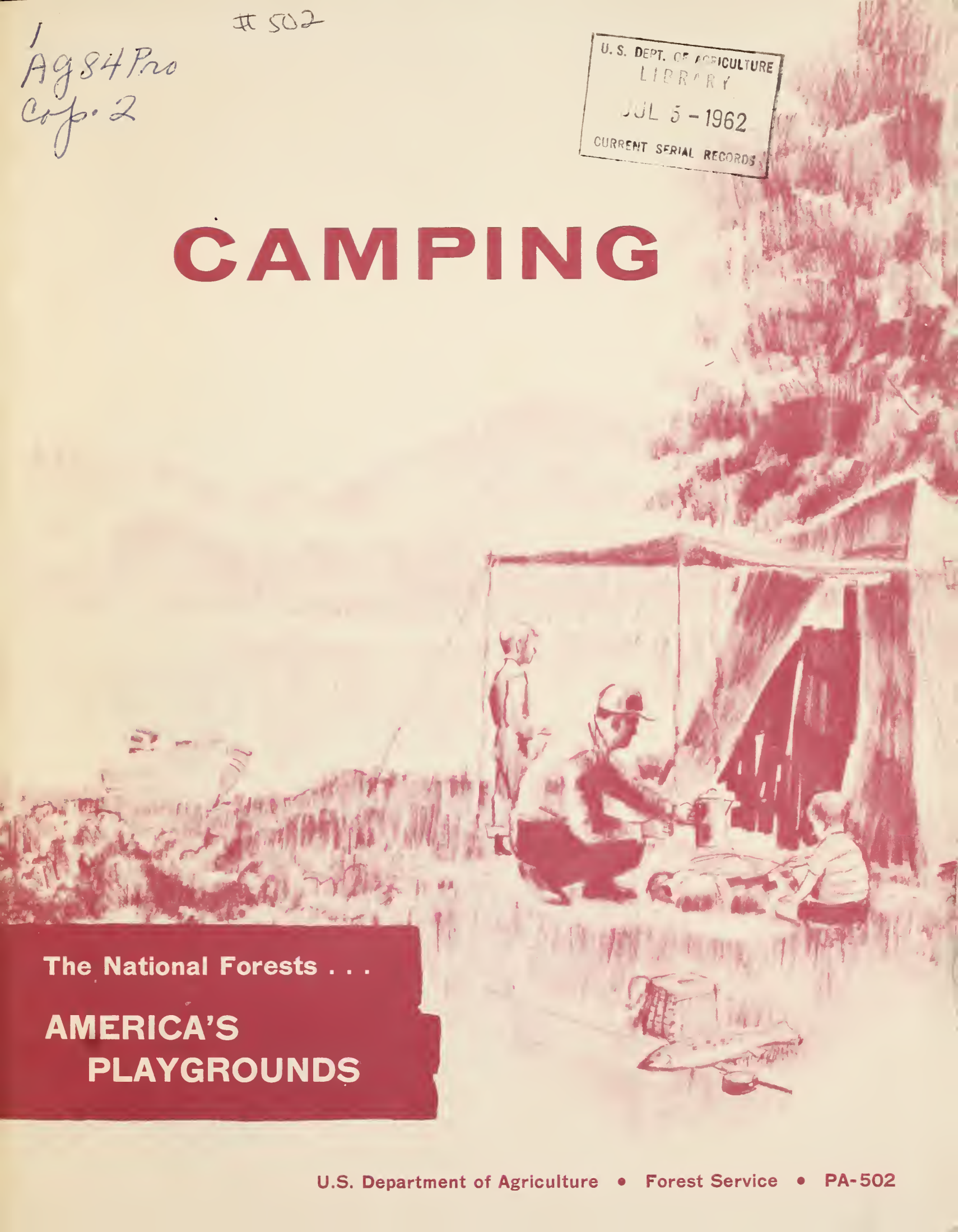
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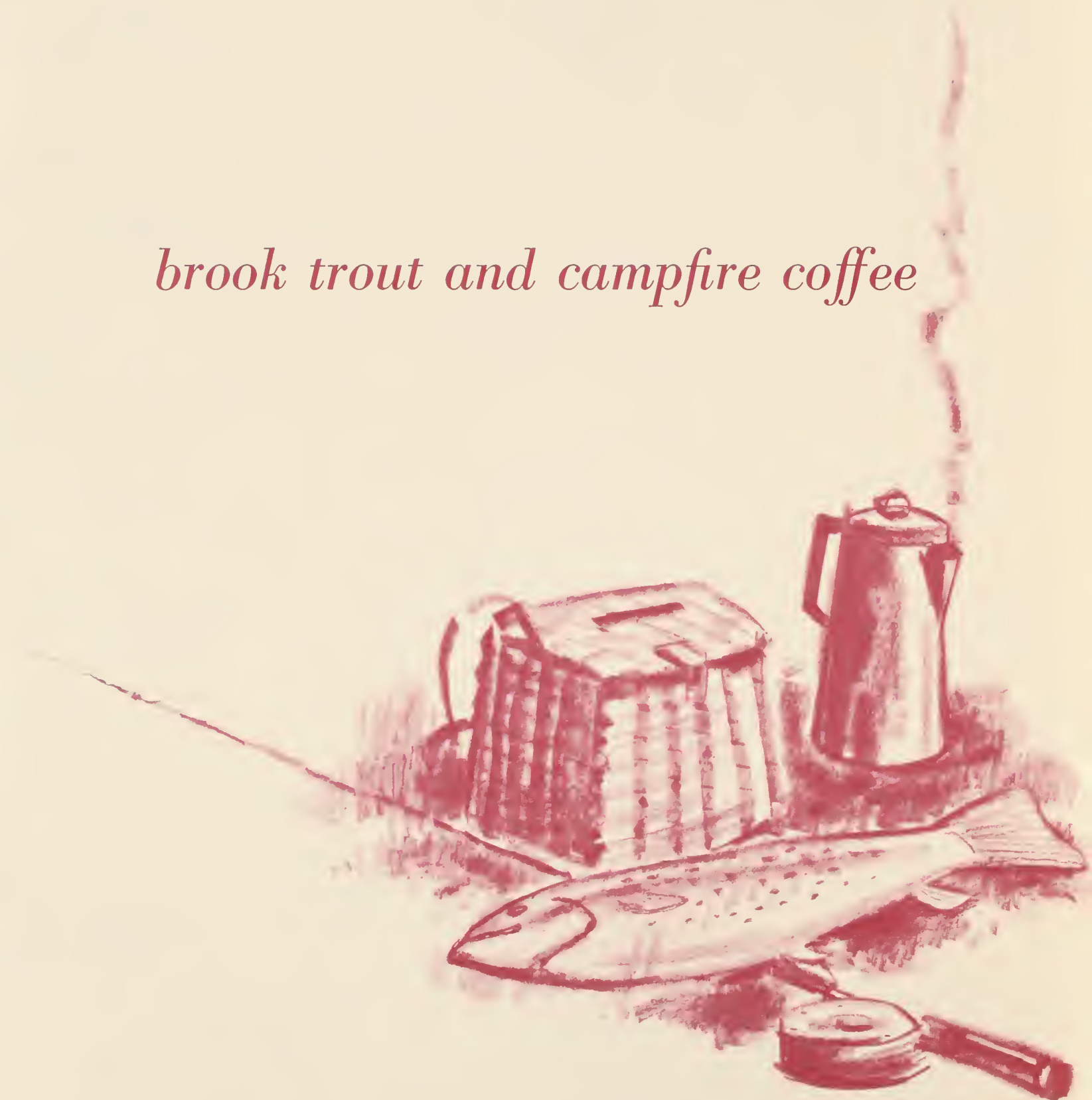
CAMPING



The National Forests . . .

**AMERICA'S
PLAYGROUNDS**

brook trout and campfire coffee



The tempting aroma of campfire coffee mixed with wood smoke drifted through the open tent door. But Jean burrowed further in her sleeping bag and squeezed her eyes shut hard. She wasn't getting up yet; this was a special time she'd looked forward to for months.

The children were urging their father in excited whispers to start frying the fish. Jim had crawled out of his bag at dawn to get brook trout for this, their first breakfast in camp. It was a family tradition, Jim's making breakfast the first day. Jean would take over after this, but right now she was enjoying every minute of the unusual luxury.

It was good to know the youngsters liked camping. They should, of course. She had met Jim at a National Forest campground, and they'd vacationed in the Forests ever since, taking the children even when they were babes in arms.

When the hot fat started to crackle in the frying pan, she knew it was time to open her eyes and let them know she was awake. Sure enough, the sun was edging over the eastern ridge, splashing its color across the top of Pine Mountain to the west. Brr . . . it was nippy! She could tell by the tip of her nose. She'd forgotten that in the mountains August nights are cold.

"How about a cup of coffee in bed?" she called.

"She's awake!" the youngsters shouted. "Now we can talk."

Bless them, they thought they'd been quiet all this time.

Thus one family started a 2-week camping vacation—one of millions of families which each year head for America's Playgrounds, the 154 National Forests and 18 National Grasslands administered by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

IS CAMPING REALLY FUN?

Every year more people are using and enjoying the National Forests and National Grasslands, 186 million acres of the Nation's magnificent outdoors. Camping visits now number nearly 12 million a year (visits for all recreational purposes total 102 million). Since campers stay an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ days, their visits add up to an annual use of these lands of about $28\frac{1}{2}$ million camper-days.

Camping visits now exceed by almost 9 million those recorded the year after World War II and represent an unforeseen, almost unbelievable increase over the $1\frac{1}{2}$ million in 1924, the first year the Forest Service counted camping visits to the National Forests.

Why do these millions find fun pitching camp and roughing it in the woods? Some of them hunt. The National Forests, home for one-third of the country's big-game animals, are the happy (unposted) hunting grounds





of the Nation. Other campers fish. National Forest fishing streams total 81,000 miles and natural lakes and impounded waters cover nearly 3 million acres. All offer some of the finest fishing in the country.

Campers also go hiking, swimming, boating, and horseback riding. They pick berries, collect rocks, and photograph wild flowers, the scenery, and one another. They do these things, and many others, and find time in between for just plain sitting.

First-time campers, unaccustomed to forest sounds, may briefly wonder whether camping is fun when an unusual noise shatters the night. A veteran woodsman tells of a night in New Hampshire at Dolly Copp campground on the White Mountain National Forest.

"I was awakened by the excited voices of other campers. They were beating the bushes to scare off a wild animal they'd heard. Some thought it might invade the camp. I was tired from hiking and had a hard time staying awake to hear whatever creature was threatening, but finally its cry pierced the night.

" 'That's it!' someone shouted. 'Did you hear it?'

" 'I heard it!' I shouted. 'That's a baby fox crying for its mother!' The campers quieted then, somewhat sheepishly and, I think, a little disappointed because it wasn't a man-eating wildcat. I have no doubt that

by the time they returned home, each was telling proudly how *he* had charged into the night to protect the camp.”

Obviously there’s no simple explanation of the strong attraction Americans feel for the outdoors. Each one—the hunter, fisher, first-time camper—comes for reasons special to him, and possibly just to be outdoors, living close to the land. Perhaps Joseph W. Barr, former Congressman from Indiana, sums it up best in describing an automobile trip through several western National Forests.

“Can you imagine turning off a burning Nevada desert to drive up a canyon into the Humboldt National Forest and finding a campsite beside a small stream that winds through a flower-strewn meadow? Can you imagine the wide-eyed excitement of a small boy who rushes back to a campsite high in the Bighorn Mountains to report a herd of deer peacefully grazing up the draw? Can you imagine huddling around a campfire helping little girls toast marshmallows with a small gale driving the waves of the Pacific onto a beach nearby? These are the experiences that come only rarely in any lifetime, but they explain why the American people want to camp.

“We saw a lot of the United States and got a lot of its good earth on us, and in the process we all got the feel of this great country. I had seen most of it at one time or another, but never before had I had the chance to live so close to it. There is no better way to understand it.”

Fortunately for a Nation of people strongly drawn to the outdoors, open space and forest recreation are still readily available to them, even in this age of urban sprawl. National Forests or National Grasslands are found in 41 States (one forest is in Puerto Rico) and are so located that almost anyone in the country can drive to a Forest Service campground in a day. A look at a map proves this point. Check highway maps distributed by service stations, State highway departments, or travel organizations. Nearly every major highway in the Nation passes through one or more National Forests.

Good maps are useful to the camper in planning trips and are necessary when traveling unfamiliar roads. In addition to showing National Forests, many maps indicate locations of major recreation areas in National Forests, private and other public lands. To obtain detailed recreation maps of National Forests before your trip, write the Forest Service Regional Office administering the Forests you wish to visit. Addresses are on the inside back cover of this booklet. And when you enter a Forest, stop at the District Forest Ranger’s station. He has excellent maps and will be pleased to assist in making your visit an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

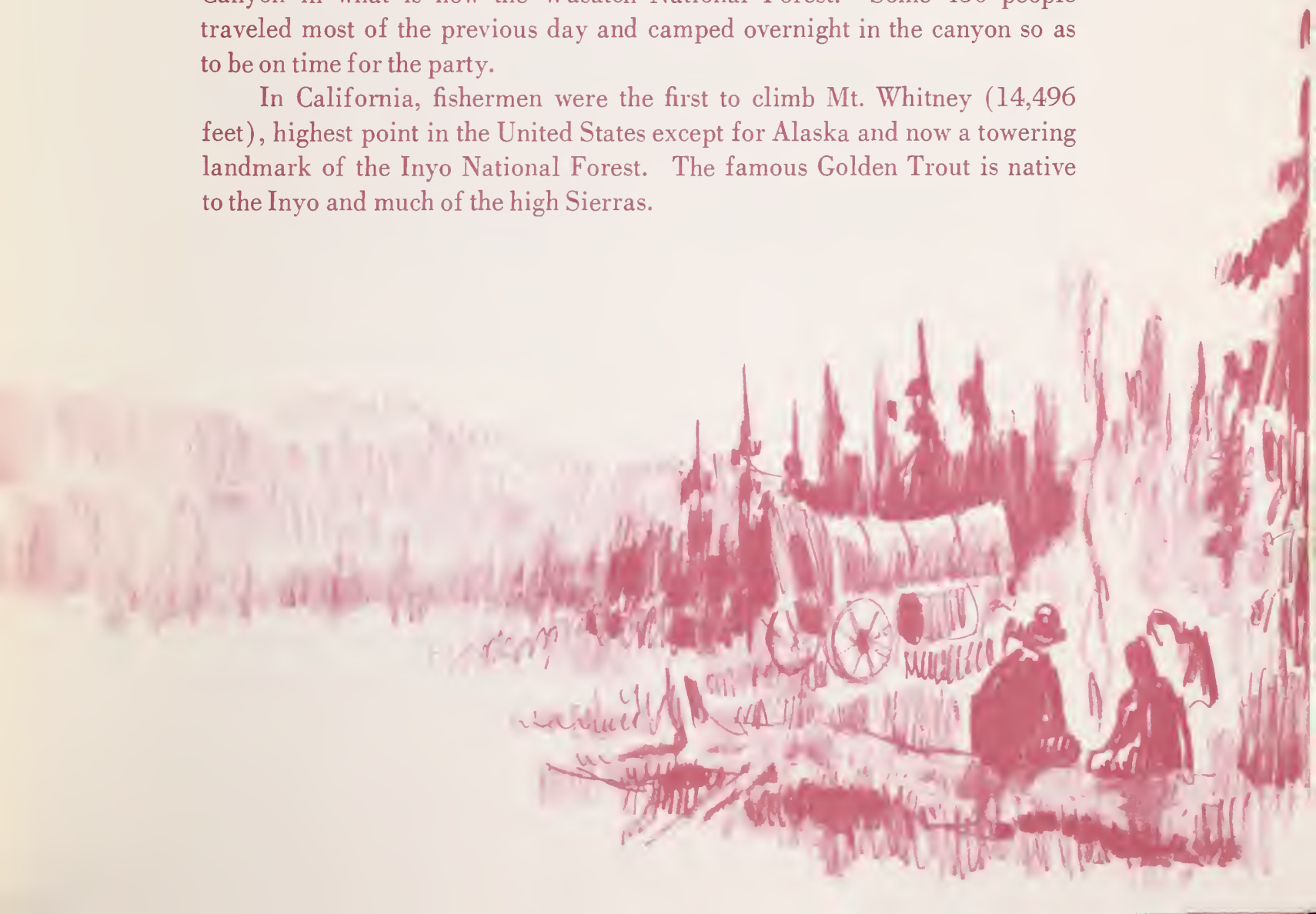
AN AMERICAN TRADITION

The use of forests for many purposes, including recreation, is traditional with a people for whom the outdoors has always been close at hand. Our forefathers hunted and fished forest lands and used forest trees for building. Often in their travels, though more from necessity than for fun, they camped deep in the woods.

In later years, Americans traveling alone or in organized groups were camping, fishing, hunting, or otherwise exploring the Nation's back country long before the establishment of the National Forests. In the 1880's the Appalachian Mountain Club was laying out trails and camping all over New Hampshire's White Mountains and their rugged Presidential Range, now the White Mountain National Forest.

Near Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 24, 1856, the President of the Mormon Church, Brigham Young, held a "Pic-nic Party" in Big Cottonwood Canyon in what is now the Wasatch National Forest. Some 450 people traveled most of the previous day and camped overnight in the canyon so as to be on time for the party.

In California, fishermen were the first to climb Mt. Whitney (14,496 feet), highest point in the United States except for Alaska and now a towering landmark of the Inyo National Forest. The famous Golden Trout is native to the Inyo and much of the high Sierras.





Birch Lake Campground, Superior National Forest, Minnesota

F-494961

The renowned California naturalist, John Muir, camped in the 1890's throughout the Sierras, most of which are now in National Forests. The Sierra Club, devoted to outdoor travel and conservation of wild lands, was organized in Muir's time and still follows his pioneering footsteps.

In the Northwest, another of today's outdoor organizations, the mountain-climbing Mazamas, were crossing glaciers and camping on Mt. Hood (11,245 feet, Oregon's highest) before the end of the century and the establishment of the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Today the woods, streams, and mountains of the National Forests attract outdoor recreationists as strongly as in the days of Brigham Young. They still offer some of the best camping in the country, and by automobile they can be reached more quickly and easily than they could in the time of the horse and wagon and the "Pic-nic Party." In fact, you can tent or trailer your way across the United States and sleep in a National Forest or National Grassland every night.

On these public lands the Forest Service has provided 33,600 overnight family camping units in 4,000 campgrounds. All are in the most attractive surroundings available: Mossy glades beside chattering streams; high plateaus where ridges stretch to the horizon; groves of trees lining the shores of serene lakes; abandoned farm clearings filled with goldenrod and wild asters.

Although no two campgrounds are alike, you can expect certain basic things at each. Privacy is one. They are "blended" into the landscape to preserve the forest atmosphere, and shrubs and trees serve to screen camping units, which are usually spaced about 100 feet apart.

For those who don't care for too much aloneness and are not yet convinced they are safer in the woods than in traffic-jammed cities, many National Forest campgrounds include meadows or fields where tents can be placed near each other. Regardless of location, each camping unit has a place to park, a cleared spot for the tent, a firegrate, and a table and benches. Several units share trash cans, drinking water, and latrines.

On many National Forests, picnic areas are located near or adjacent to campgrounds. They may be used by campers, travelers, or other forest visitors for picnicking, but not for camping. Picnic units contain a table, benches, and firegrate. Parking, water, and latrines are centrally located.

Forest campgrounds grow more popular each year with experienced as well as amateur campers, and to all the Forest Service says, "Welcome to the National Forests—yours to enjoy, protect, keep clean!" This is the Forest Service's way of asking the cooperation of the one visitor in a thousand who might misuse or damage tables, signs, or other structures. Dollars saved by lowering repair and replacement costs can be used to build new recreation areas and to improve others to accommodate the increasing numbers of Americans using the Forests (Forest Service plans for the next 10 years call for 21,000 new campgrounds containing 210,000 family units).

If you've never camped, join those thousands who this year will camp in the woods for the first time. Get the advice of an experienced woodsman, or study camping magazines and books. Then plan a simple trip—don't be too ambitious your first time out—and head for the woods. Campers are friendly and are glad to share their woods lore. You'll learn a lot, and before your trip ends you'll be writing home, "Having a wonderful time!"

BACKPACKING INTO BACK COUNTRY

Many experienced campers like the National Forests for a reason particularly important to them: they may camp almost anywhere they please. They want more privacy than even Forest Service campgrounds afford, and



prefer to throw a pack on their backs and head into back country—the wilder parts of the Forests. There they seek the pioneer spirit of their forefathers by fending for themselves, whether traveling a little-used trail only half a mile from a road, or plunging into a 100,000-acre wilderness.

Hikers explore old trails and abandoned roads and beat their way across country, making camp where day ends. Horse riders cross mountains over steep wilderness trails, sleep beneath the stars, and return to civilization refreshed. Fishermen trek to remote streams and high country lakes, and hunters take to the hills in search of next winter's venison and bear steaks. They go in organized groups, in pairs, alone. Families, too, enjoy the away-from-it-all experience of primitive travel and deep-woods camping.

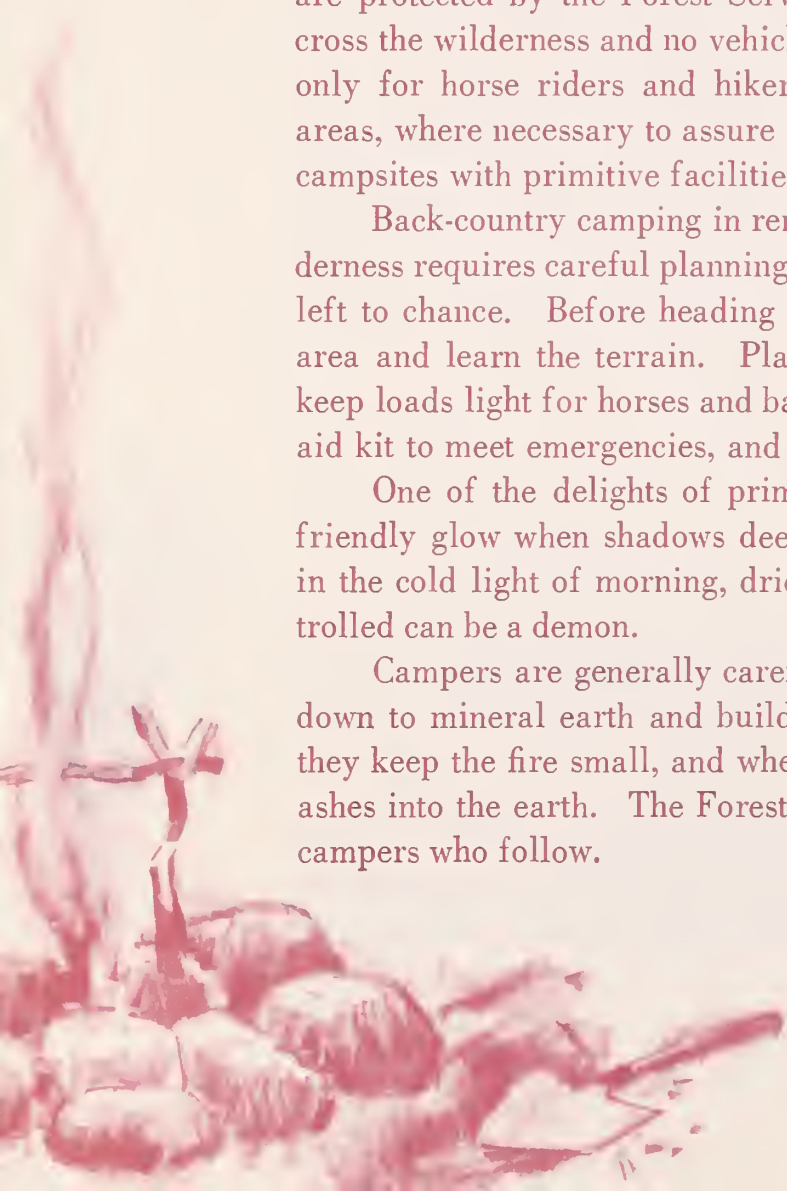
To assist back-country campers, the Forest Service has blazed miles of trails, and provided primitive campsites—a few with three-sided shelters and fire pits. Campers needn't use them, but they do simplify making camp.

The supreme camping experience for many people—including families—is a wilderness trip. On the National Forests are 83 separate wilderness areas totaling 14½ million acres. Mostly high mountain country, they are protected by the Forest Service in their natural, wild state. No roads cross the wilderness and no vehicles are permitted. Trails are few, and these only for horse riders and hikers. Some of the more popular wilderness areas, where necessary to assure sanitation and safety, have a few designated campsites with primitive facilities.

Back-country camping in remote parts of a forest or deep in a great wilderness requires careful planning and proper equipment. Nothing should be left to chance. Before heading into the wilds, study a detailed map of the area and learn the terrain. Plan menus and select equipment carefully to keep loads light for horses and back packers. For safety's sake, carry a first-aid kit to meet emergencies, and a map and compass to keep you on trail.

One of the delights of primitive camping is the campfire. It sheds a friendly glow when shadows deepen into night, provides a warming crackle in the cold light of morning, dries clothes, and cooks food. But fire uncontrolled can be a demon.

Campers are generally careful with fire. Their secret is to clear a spot down to mineral earth and build a ring of rocks to contain the fire. Then they keep the fire small, and when through, drench it with water and stir the ashes into the earth. The Forest Ranger appreciates this care, and so do the campers who follow.





BEFORE YOU ASK

The information below answers some of the questions most frequently asked about camping on the National Forests. For more detailed information than is supplied here and elsewhere in this booklet, write the appropriate Regional Forester as listed on the inside back cover.

Camping season. The regular season at campgrounds usually is from May 30 through Labor Day weekend, but in the milder climates some enjoy a longer season and others are open year-round. Except where weather is too severe, campgrounds may be used at any time, but outside the regular season, water is turned off, flush toilets are locked, and garbage is not collected.

Reservations. None are required. Campsites are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so come early if you're heading for one of the more popular campgrounds.

Charges. Almost all National Forest camping is free. At about 50 areas where special services and equipment are provided, there are charges of 25 to 50 cents per person per day.

Length of stay. As long as you wish at many campgrounds, but at some of the more popular areas visits are limited to 2 weeks.

Equipment. Bring your own tent, sleeping and cooking equipment, and plenty of food—fresh air builds the appetite.

Trailers. Small trailers may be used at campgrounds where designated parking space is large enough for both car and trailer, but water, electrical, and sewage connections are not provided and waste water is not permitted to drain on the ground. Many forests offer separate trailer accommodations, and some have commercially operated trailer camps for which there is a charge.

Campfires and Cooking. Fires may be built at campgrounds and other designated sites without a permit except in California. Before entering back country or wilderness areas, check with Forest Rangers for permit

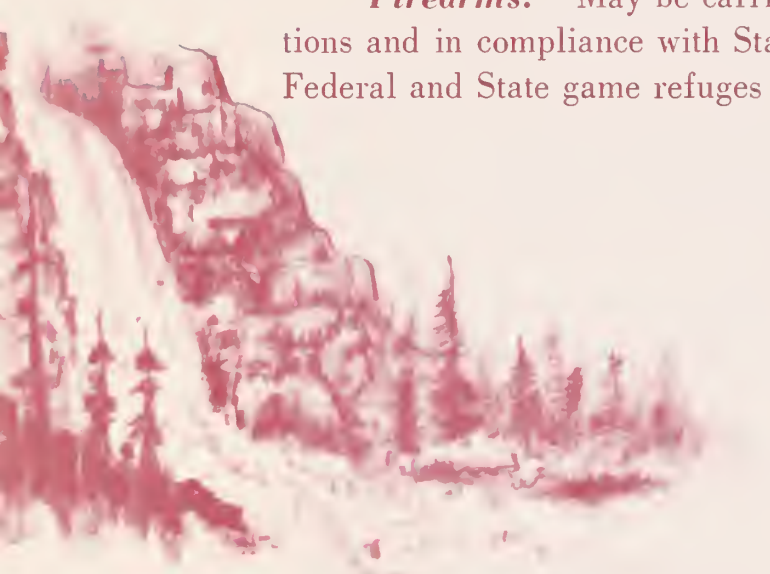
requirements. Cut fuelwood is available at some campgrounds; at others you gather your own. You are not allowed, of course, to cut standing timber, bushes, or other vegetation. For quick meals, bring along a gasoline stove.

Water. Safe drinking water is available at most campgrounds. Hot water and laundry facilities are available only when supplied by concessioners.

Supplies. Fresh milk, ice, and other provisions can be obtained in nearby towns and, in some cases, from concessioners.

Pets. You may bring pets, but you are asked to keep them under control. Pets are subject to State laws, and some States require that dogs be kept on leash in established camp or picnic grounds.

Firearms. May be carried in the forest and fired under safe conditions and in compliance with State laws; they are specifically prohibited in Federal and State game refuges within the National Forests.



PLAYGROUNDS AND NATURAL WONDERS

It would take a lifetime of year-round camping—more than 75 years if you spent a week at each campground—to visit all the National Forests and to enjoy their unmatched variety of scenery, natural wonders, historic sites, and recreation opportunities.

But it would be worth a try. There's so much to see and enjoy.

You can camp in the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina near Linville Gorge—a canyon of wildness and beauty and a 90-foot waterfall which was visited, legend says, by Hernando De Soto in 1539. From the canyon rim, the famous Brown Mountain lights are often seen on clear, dark nights. As if from a giant Roman candle the lights float upward, glowing brightly, fading and disappearing, and often reappearing to glow again.

Mountain climbing? Try Signal Knob on the George Washington National Forest in Virginia, where flashing lights relayed Civil War messages to Confederate troops threatening the Nation's capital.

Visit the cabin in Oak Creek Canyon on the Coconino National Forest in Arizona, where Zane Grey lived when he wrote "Call of the Canyon," and see colorful sunsets and red-rock cliffs he made famous (spectacular scenery used in many Hollywood movies).

Pan for gold at German Gulch on the Deerlodge National Forest in Montana, where once a thousand prospectors staked claims . . . explore dozens of ghost towns within National Forests throughout the West . . . pick wild huckleberries on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington (some of the fields are reserved for Indians).

Camp in America's famous North Woods Country, the heart of the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, and explore the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the water routes of the Old Voyageurs, the French-Canadian fur traders of the 1700's.

Hike the Appalachian Trail. It crosses eight National Forests in 2,000 miles from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. In the West, try the Pacific Crest Trail System. It winds through National

Mt. Baker and Chain Lake, Mt. Baker National Forest, Washington

F-385265



Forests from Canada to Mexico, along the snow-mantled skyline of the Northern Cascades in Washington and Oregon and down the John Muir Trail in the high Sierras.

In Colorado, drive through clouds to the crest of Pikes Peak on the Pike National Forest via one of the world's highest auto roads . . . in New Mexico, look at a panorama of Albuquerque and the Rio Grande Valley from Sandia Crest Highway on the Cibola National Forest.

Along the Columbia River gorge near Portland, Oreg., Multnomah Falls, second highest in the Nation, plunges down a cliffside in the Mt. Hood National Forest. For contrast, look into mile-deep Hells Canyon, deepest gorge on the North American continent, where the Snake River flows through the Payette, Nezperce, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests of Idaho and Oregon. The canyon at one point is 7,900 feet deep and 10 miles wide from rim to rim.

In the Cranberry Glades of the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, wild cranberries and many types of wild orchids grow in the arctic-like tundra. You can jump up and down on the spongy bog and shake a person 150 feet away.

Bristlecone pines, Inyo National Forest, California

F-487531





F-498791

Juniper Creek, Juniper Springs Recreation Area, Ocala National Forest, Florida

The largest bird in North America, the condor, lives in the Sespe Wildlife Area on Los Padres National Forest in California, and some of the very rare trumpeter swans make their homes in the Copper River Delta of the Chugach National Forest in Alaska.

On the Inyo National Forest in California grow ancient bristlecone pines, the oldest known living things on earth. Methuselah, the oldest tree yet found, is older than 4,600 years. Also on the Inyo are fossil graptolites, remains of sea animals that lived about 400 million years ago when the sea covered the area.

Near Sheep Creek Canyon and Flaming Gorge on the Ashley National Forest in Utah there are exposed geologic formations an estimated 1 billion years old. And in Kentucky, there is a natural arch 60 feet high and 100 feet long in the Cumberland National Forest.

These are a sampling of outstanding attractions on National Forests which you can see and enjoy while camping nearby. You may not be able to visit all the Forests, but a few days in any one you choose will be a vacation not soon forgotten—and probably soon repeated.

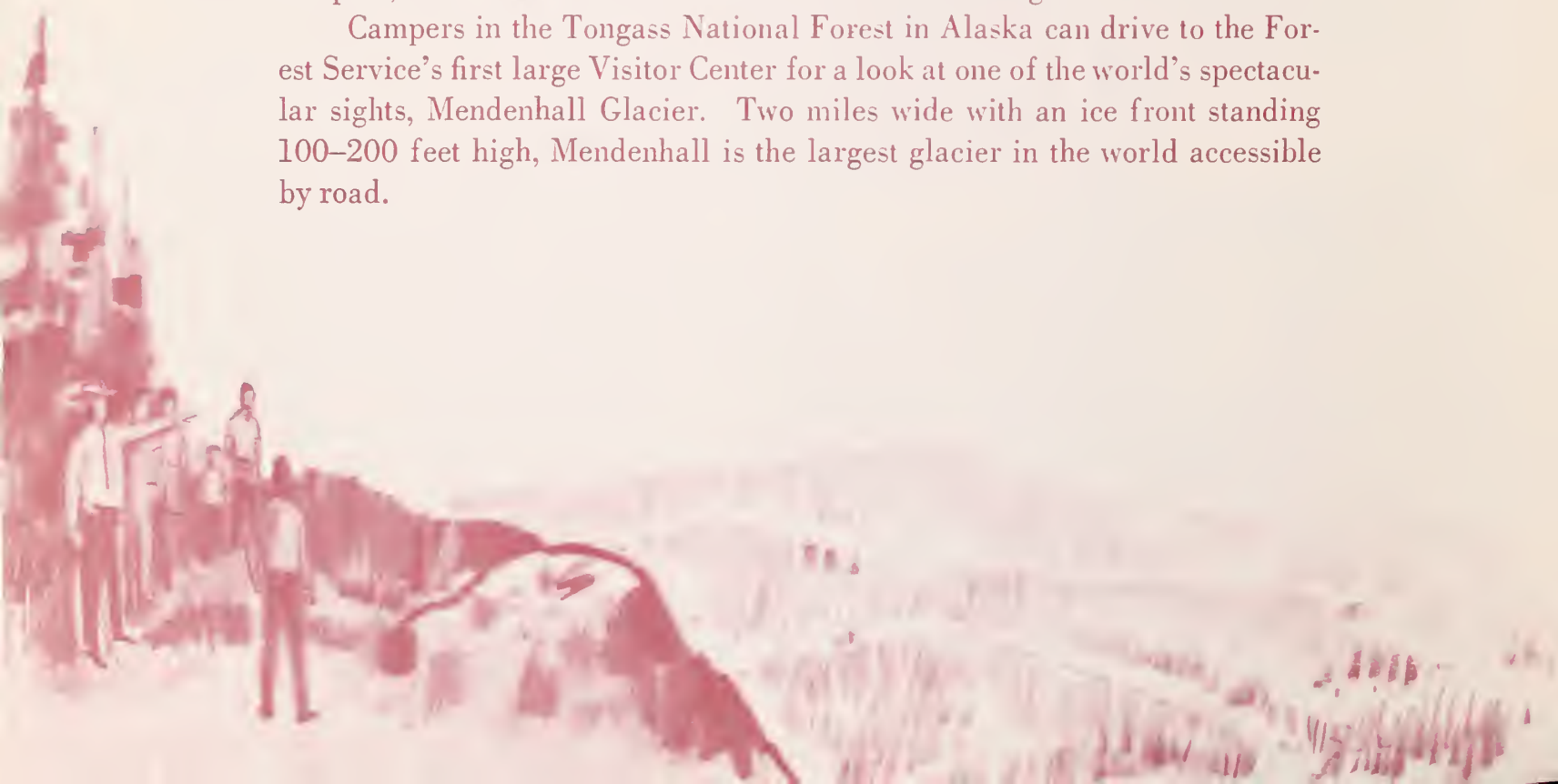
UNDERSTANDING OUR HERITAGE

The Forest Service has special Rangers on duty on many National Forests to explain the complex workings of forests, and to interpret their history and the natural wonders within their borders. They are there to tell visitors how ancient glaciers carved a valley, to identify delicate alpine flowers, to relate the history of a mountain range, to answer visitor's questions.

National Forests have had interpretive services at some outstanding areas for years. An ever-increasing number of visitors, however, emphasizes the need to extend such services, ranging from simple nature walks to Visitor Centers with more elaborate facilities, to all National Forests. To meet the need, the Forest Service established a Visitor Information Service in 1961, a year in which Americans made 102 million visits to the Forests (not counting millions of cross-country travelers who enjoyed the beauty and spectacle of Forest landscapes but did not use National Forest facilities).

More than 350,000 of these visits were counted on the Madison River Canyon Earthquake Area of the Gallatin National Forest in Montana the first summer the area was opened to the public. Here the earth grew restless on an August night in 1959 and a great chunk of mountain fell across the river and made a new lake. Scale models of the area depict, and Rangers explain, how the land was reshaped by one of the six strongest recorded earthquakes ever to jolt the United States, outside Alaska. The canyon is popular with campers, and the Madison River is famed for trout fishing.

Campers in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska can drive to the Forest Service's first large Visitor Center for a look at one of the world's spectacular sights, Mendenhall Glacier. Two miles wide with an ice front standing 100-200 feet high, Mendenhall is the largest glacier in the world accessible by road.



And on the Ocala National Forest in Florida, campers swim in Juniper Springs or larger Alexander Springs (78 million gallons daily), canoe down jungle-bordered streams, and walk forest trails well marked with signs describing the lush subtropical vegetation.

The value of interpretive services in enhancing the visitor's appreciation and enjoyment of natural landscapes, historic or geologic sites, or the unique qualities of outstanding scenic areas was recognized by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission in its report to the President and Congress in January 1962. The report recommended that the Forest Service continue to identify and preserve sites of unique natural (Mendenhall) and scientific (Earthquake Area) interest on the National Forests, and that the interpretive and educational services of Federal agencies be expanded.

The Commission declared, "The benefit of these activities is clear, especially for a population that is becoming almost wholly urban in fact and in outlook. They promote understanding of the Nation's heritage and its great variety of landscape, as well as the wise use of natural resources."

THE WISE USE OF FOREST RESOURCES



F-499754

The campground you enjoy is but a fraction of a Ranger District, which may vary in size from 50,000 to 500,000 acres. Its manager is a District Forest Ranger, who has a college degree in forestry or related fields and long experience as an assistant ranger. His job is the management, development, and use on his district of renewable forest resources: water, timber, wildlife, forage, and recreation.

It is a complex job of land management, and requires him to be administrator, planner, salesman, technician. He sells timber when it is ready for harvest and insures that young trees replace those harvested. He protects

the land from erosion and puts good watershed management into effect; water flowing from National Forests is their most precious resource. He makes sure that ranges are not overgrazed by big-game animals or by sheep and cattle.

The Forest Ranger improves the wildlife habitat and cooperates with State fish and game departments to provide better fishing and hunting. He watches for the first sign of the forest's most feared enemies: disease, insects, and fire, and he counters their attack quickly and efficiently. He develops recreation areas, and visits campers, hiking clubs, trail riders, skiers, and other groups making use of his district to get their suggestions for improvement. Somehow he finds time to talk to school children and to professional and civic organizations, for conservation—wise use of natural resources—is the concern of all.

These are only highlights of a Forest Ranger's responsibilities to the American people. He is their appointed steward and is accountable to them. But he is equally accountable to Americans of the future, for the forest lands that exist today must serve even more people in the years ahead.

The Ranger's most important obligation, then, is clear. He must intensify management and development so that each resource—water, timber, wildlife, forage, recreation—will produce forest products and services at as high a level of supply as can be sustained without harming the land's ability to produce, now and in the future.

This is the Forest Service's policy of managing forest land for multiple use and sustained yield. It has proved to be good conservation. It is the means by which the Forest Service, the National Forests, and the on-the-ground land manager, the District Ranger, will continue to provide greater services to a growing Nation through the wise use of forest resources.



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

INFORMATION

For detailed information on visiting the National Forests and National Grasslands, see the map below for the number of the Forest Service region administering the areas you are interested in, and write to the appropriate Regional Forester, Forest Service:

Region 1 Federal Building
Missoula, Mont.

Region 2 Federal Center
Building 85
Denver 25, Colo.

Region 3 517 Gold Street SW.
Albuquerque, N. Mex.

Region 4 Forest Service Bldg.
Ogden, Utah

Region 5 630 Sansome Street
San Francisco 11, Calif.

Region 6 Post Office Box 4137
Portland 8, Oreg.

Region 7 6816 Market St.
Upper Darby, Pa.

Region 8 50 Seventh St.
Atlanta 23, Ga.

Region 9 710 N. 6th St.
Milwaukee 3, Wis.

Region 10 Fifth Street Office Bldg.
Post Office Box 1631
Juneau, Alaska

This booklet is one of a series on the many uses and benefits of the water, timber, wildlife, forage, and recreation resources of the National Forest System.

Issued May 1962



